

# **Iowa Board of Nursing**



## **Trends in Nursing**

**June 30, 2008**

Data source: Iowa Board of Nursing Annual Report &  
Iowa Board of Nursing Annual Program Reports as submitted by the Heads of Programs

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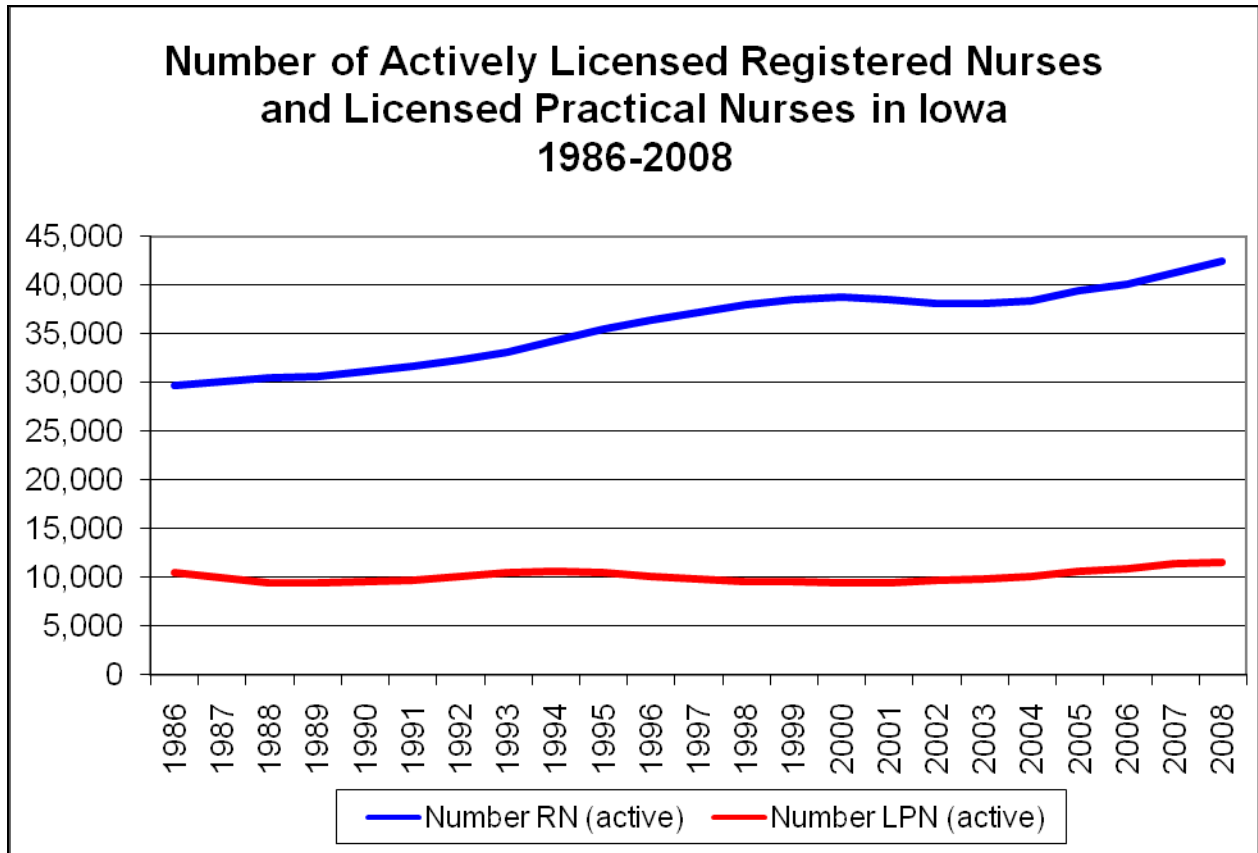
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## SECTION 1: NURSING SUPPLY

The following charts are prepared using the Iowa Board of Nursing annual reports from 1986 to 2008. The graphs illustrate trends and provide a basis of comparison for Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Iowa data with national projections.

*Note: In Iowa, nurses may hold RN and LPN licensures concurrently. On July 1, 2008, 1,018 individuals residing in Iowa held both active RN and LPN licensure. For this reason, the categories are not mutually exclusive on the following charts.*

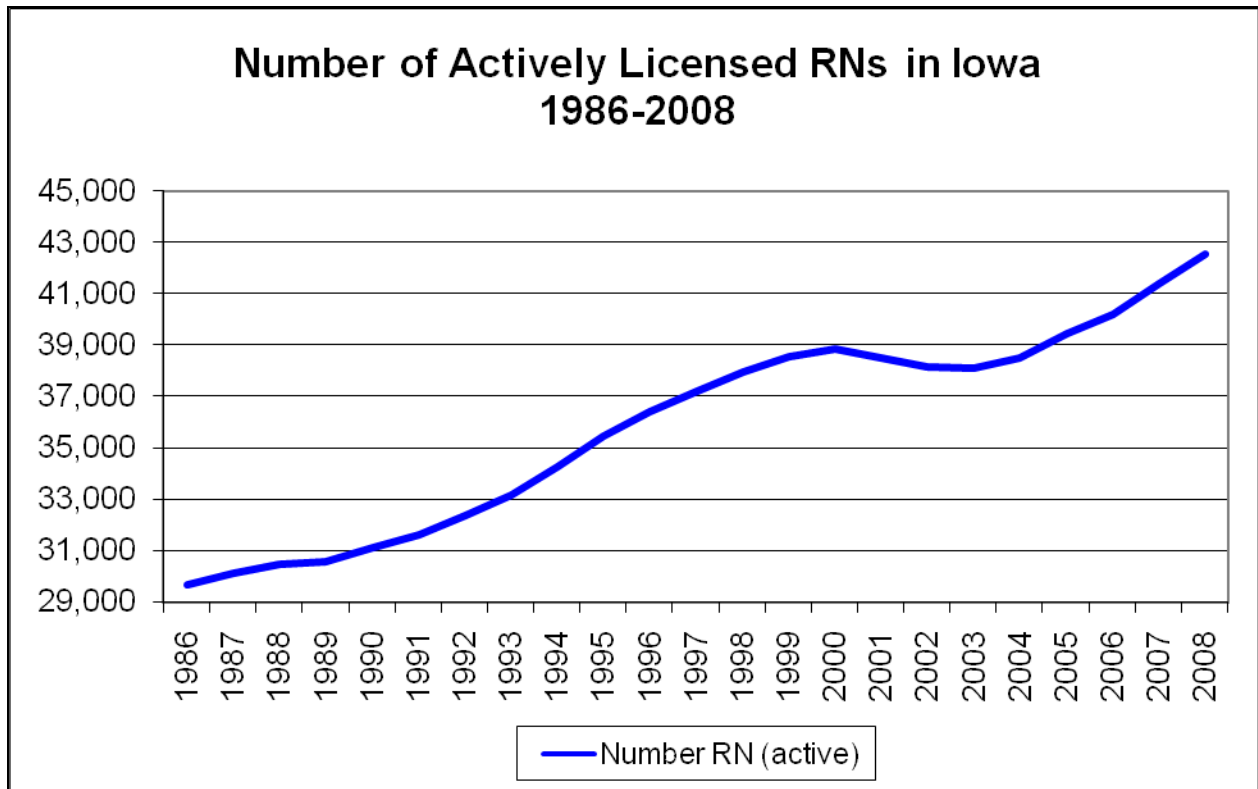
Chart 1



The number of active RNs shows a slight, steady increase since 1986. The number of active LPNs has been relatively steady with only minor fluctuations.

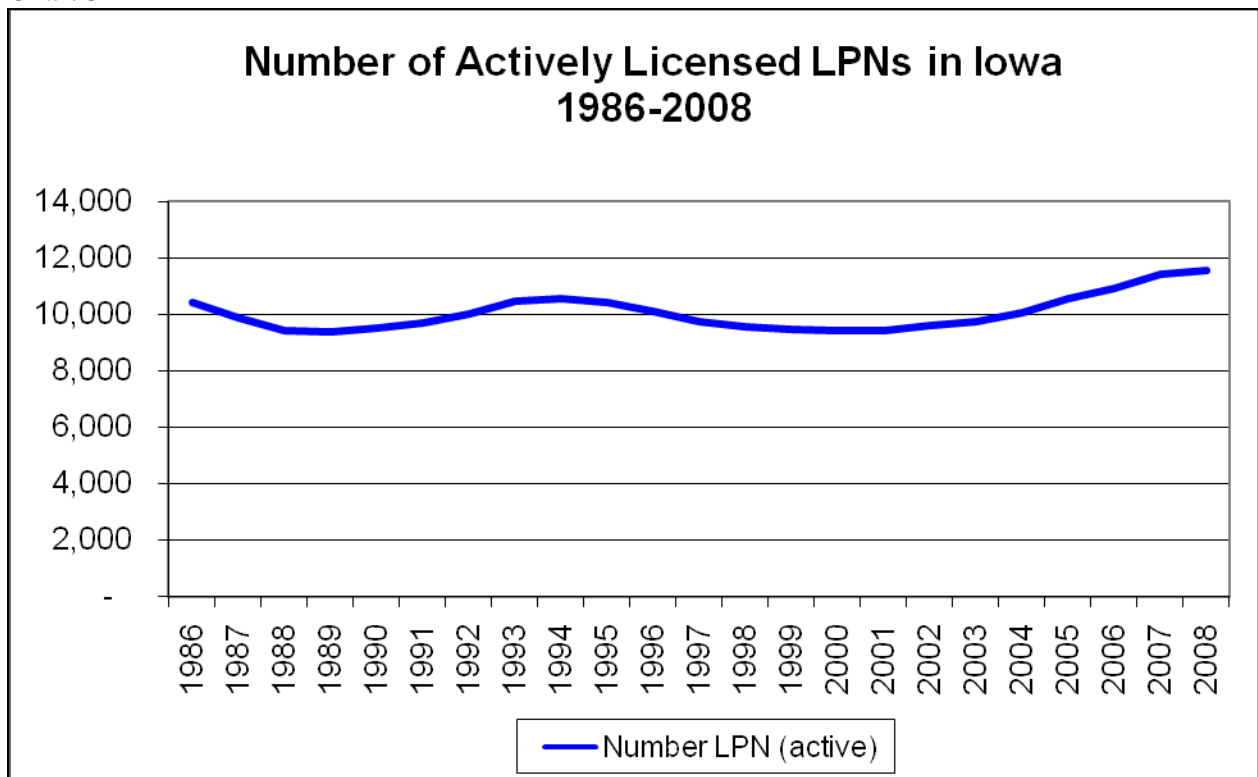
*Note: The Nurse Licensure Compact became effective in Iowa on July 1, 2000. For information about the multi-state licensure compact, contact the Iowa Board of Nursing at [www.iowa.gov/nursing](http://www.iowa.gov/nursing).*

Chart 2



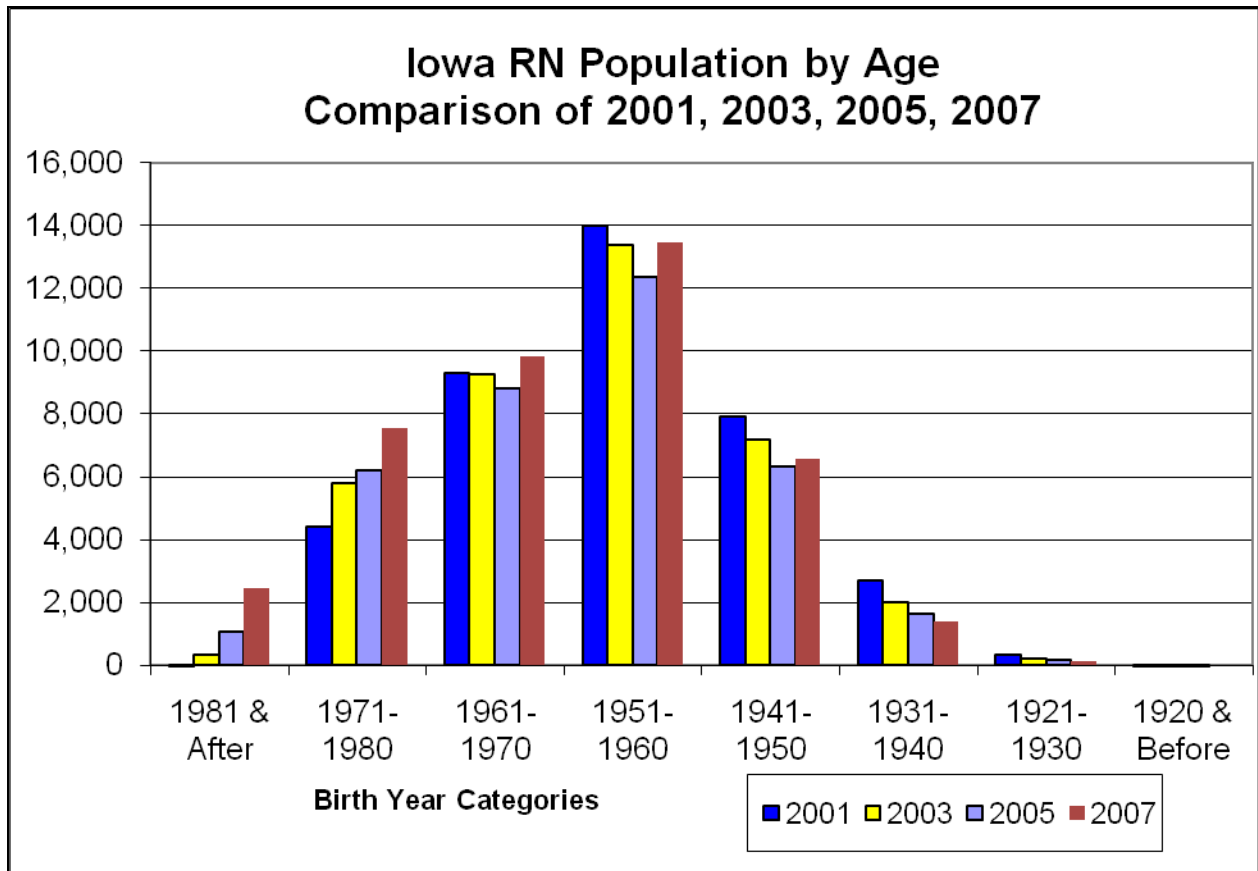
The number of active RNs in Iowa increased from 29,649 in 1986 to 42,519 in 2008. The trend reflects a steady increase until 2000. Between 2000 and 2003, there was a net loss of 748 RNs. The number of RNs increased by 959 between 2004 and 2005 and has increased each year thereafter.

Chart 3



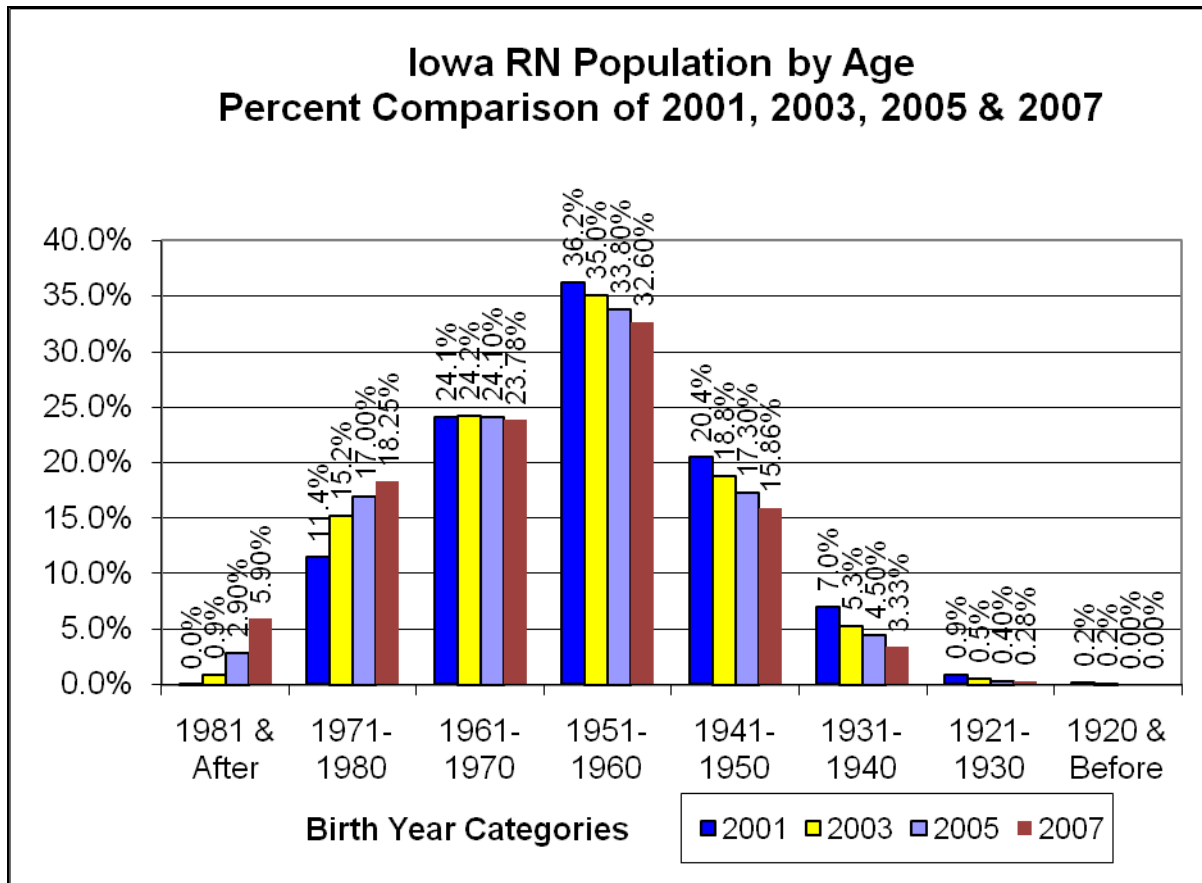
The number of active LPNs in Iowa increased from 10,435 in 1986 to 11,571 in 2008, a net gain of 1,136. The number of LPNs increased by 147 between 2007 and 2008.

Chart 4



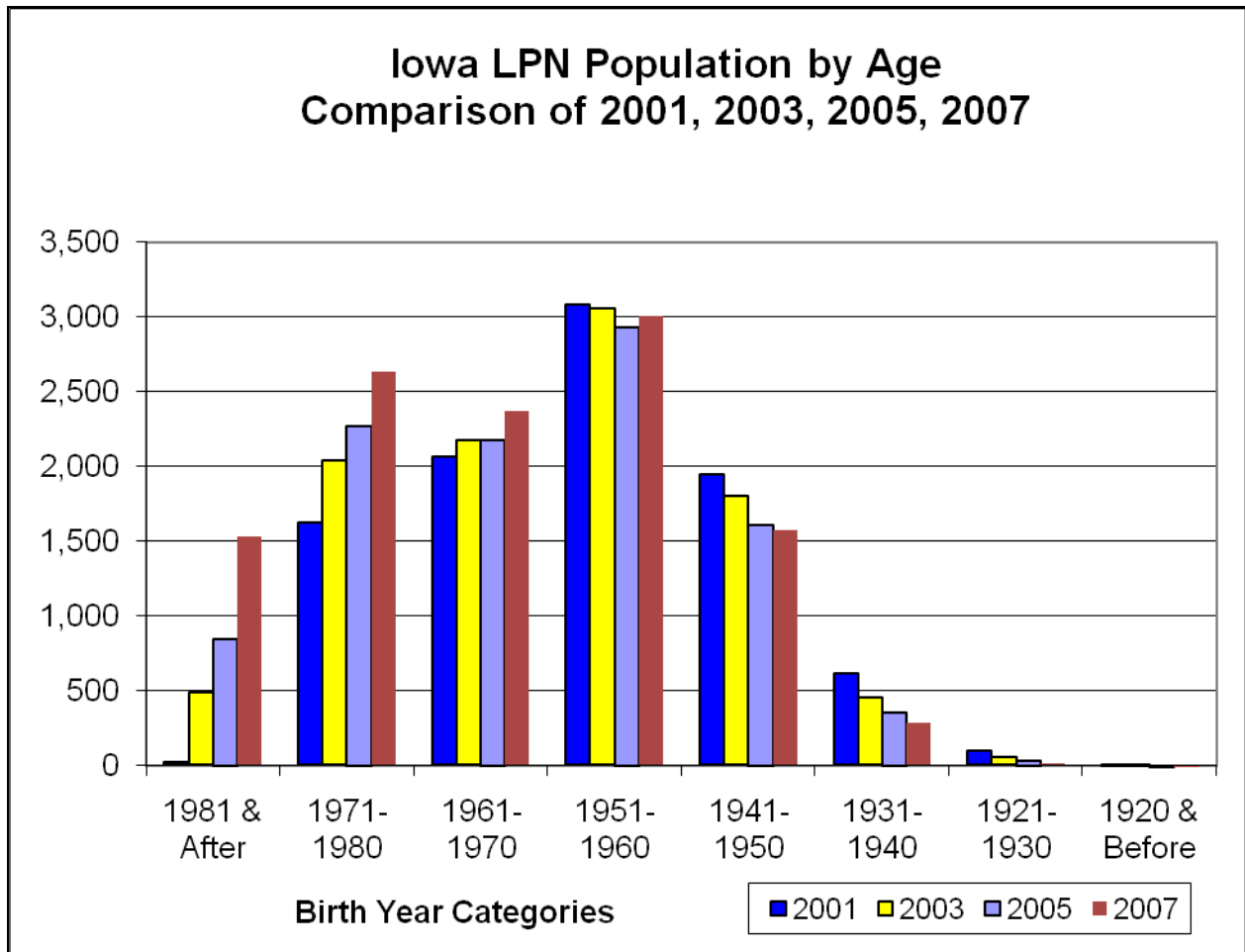
There has been a net increase in the number of actively licensed RNs born after 1970. The total number of RNs in all other age groups experienced a net decline since 2001. In 2007, the largest cohort of RNs is between 47 and 56 years of age.

Chart 5



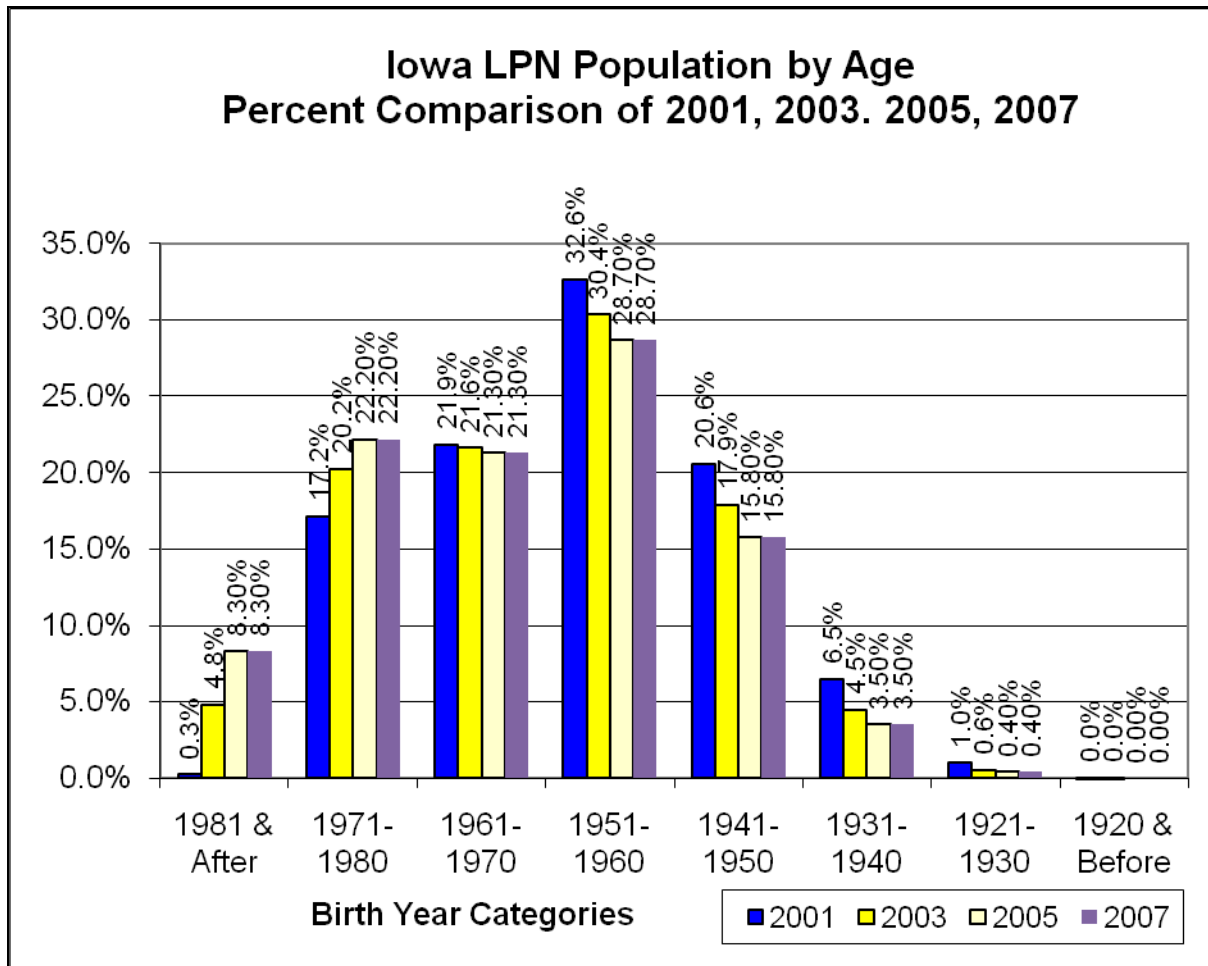
The largest percentage (33%) of RNs licensed in Iowa range in age from 47 to 56. Fifty-two percent are 47 years of age or older. Twenty-four percent are younger than 36 years of age.

Chart 6



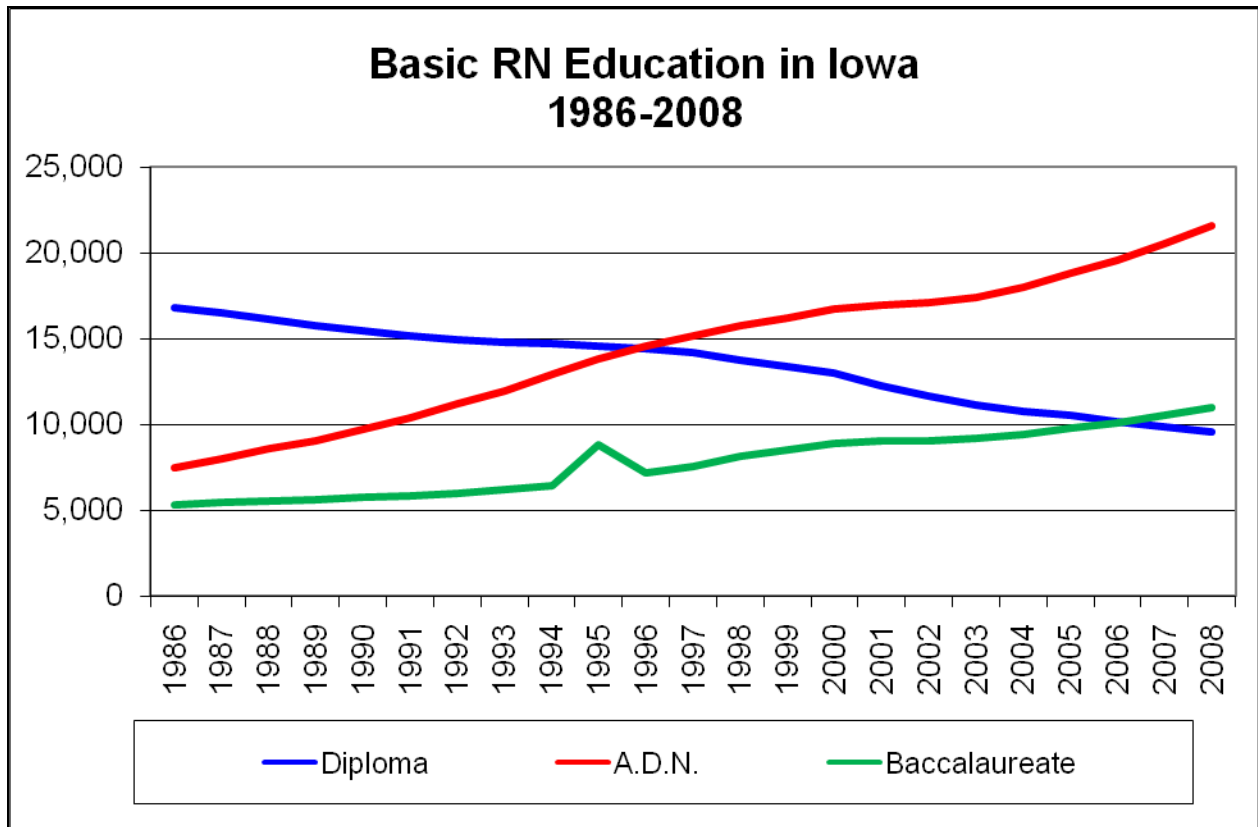
There has been a net increase in the number of actively licensed LPNs born after 1970. The number of LPNs aged 37 to 46 increased between 2005 and 2007. In 2007, the largest cohort of LPNs is between 47 and 56 years of age.

Chart 7



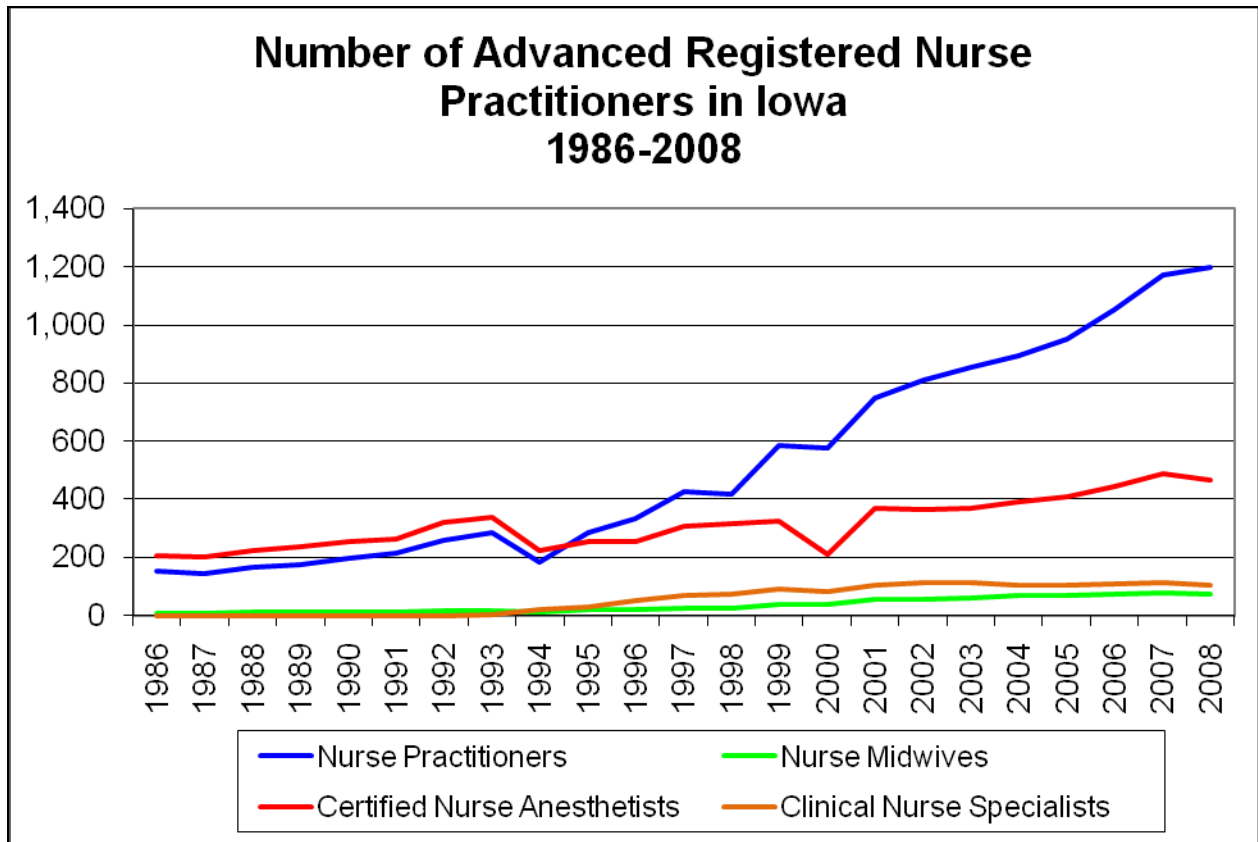
The largest percentage (29%) of LPNs licensed in Iowa range in age from 47 to 56. The majority (52%) are 46 years of age or younger. LPNs born after 1970 (younger than 36) have increased by 13% since 2001.

Chart 8



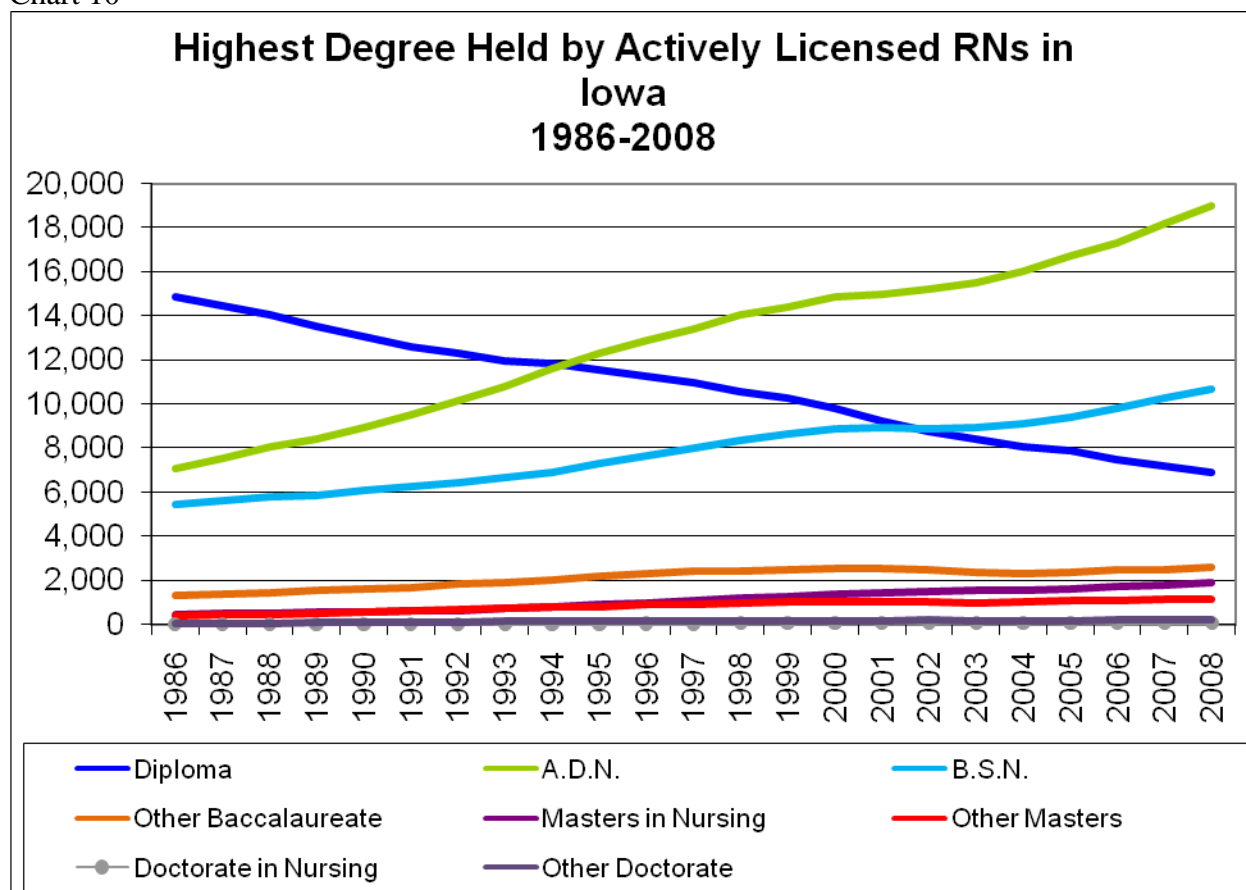
The basic levels of RN education include Diploma, Associate Degree in Nursing and Baccalaureate in Nursing. Between 1986 and 2008, an increasing number of RNs reported their basic education as an Associate or Baccalaureate degree.

Chart 9



The number of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) in Iowa increased in all categories between 1986 and 2007. In 2008 the Certified Nurse Anesthetists decreased by 24. The most significant increase has occurred among nurse practitioners.

Chart 10

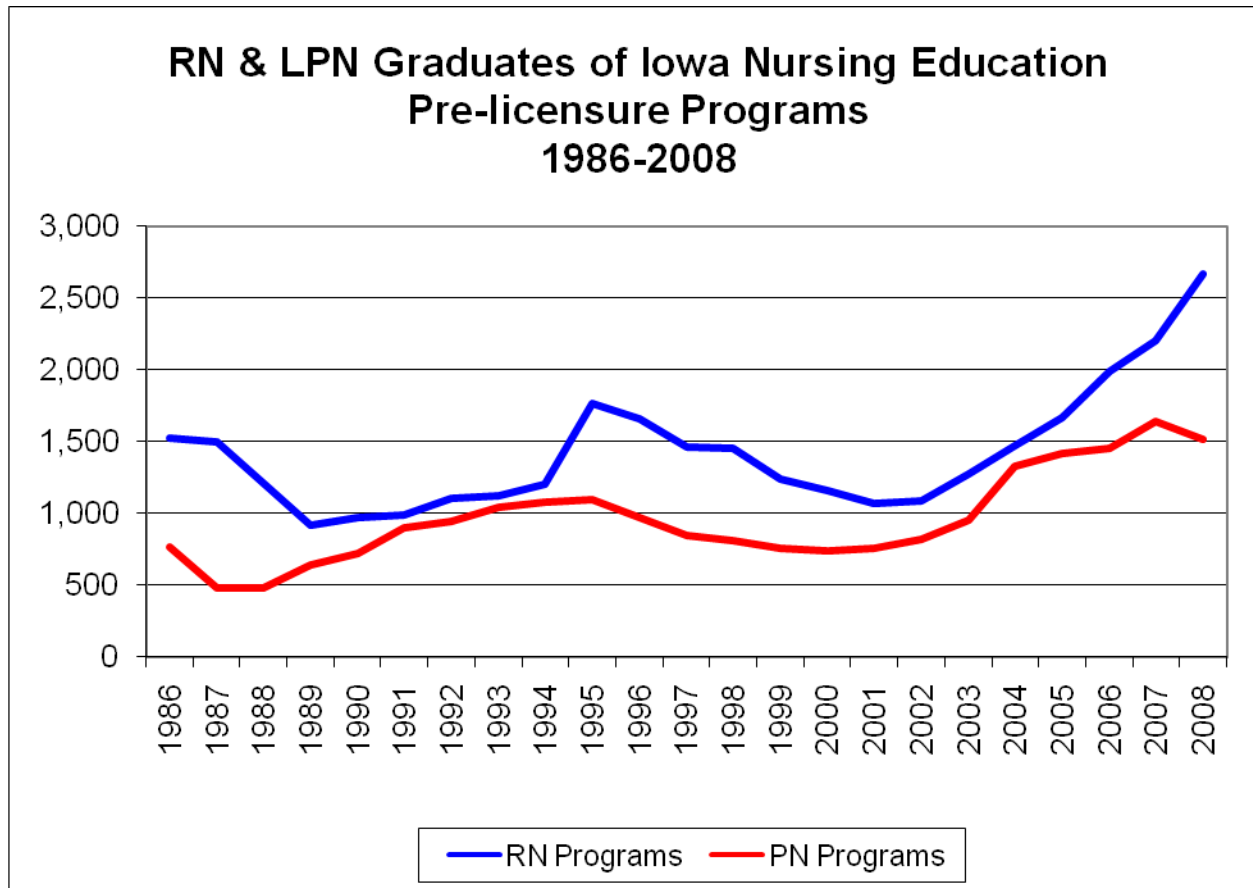


All degree categories identified by RNs as their highest have shown an increase since 1986 with the exception of the Diploma. The greatest increase was found among RNs who reported the Associate Degree in Nursing as their highest degree.

*Note: Faculty members who teach nursing theory must hold a master's degree in nursing or an applicable field, or make progress toward such a degree.*

Highest Degree Held by RNs	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Diploma	8,073	7,892	7,517	7,232	6,924
A.D.N.	16,026	16,718	17,301	18,165	18,978
B.S.N.	9,107	9,403	9,781	10,283	10,671
Other Baccalaureate	2,298	2,366	2,456	2,499	2,596
Masters in Nursing	1,601	1,649	1,728	1,802	1,928
Other Masters	1,038	1,098	1,104	1,110	1,137
Doctorate in Nursing	61	58	57	57	67
Other Doctorate	163	171	177	191	199

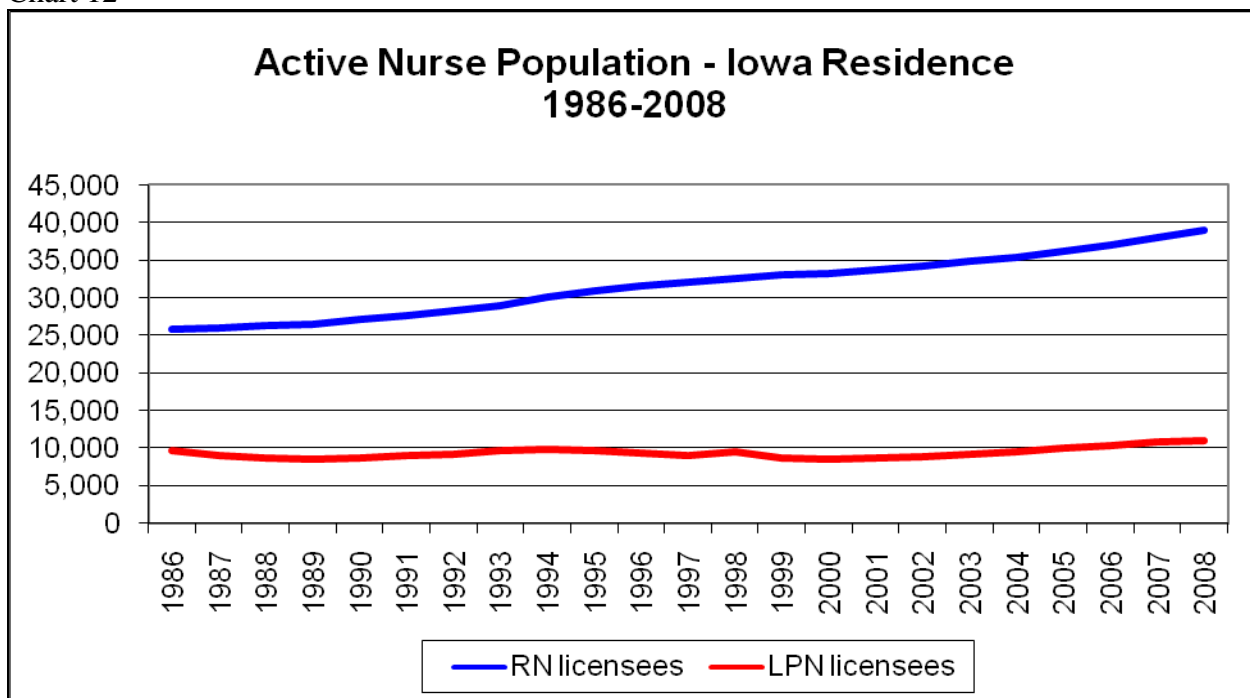
Chart 11



The number of graduates from RN and LPN pre-licensure programs declined in the late 1980s. An increase in graduates began in the early 1990s, peaking for both RNs and LPNs in 1995 and 1996. Following another decline, the number of RN graduates has steadily increased since 2001. Following another decline, the number of LPN graduates steadily increased through 2007 and then declined in 2008.

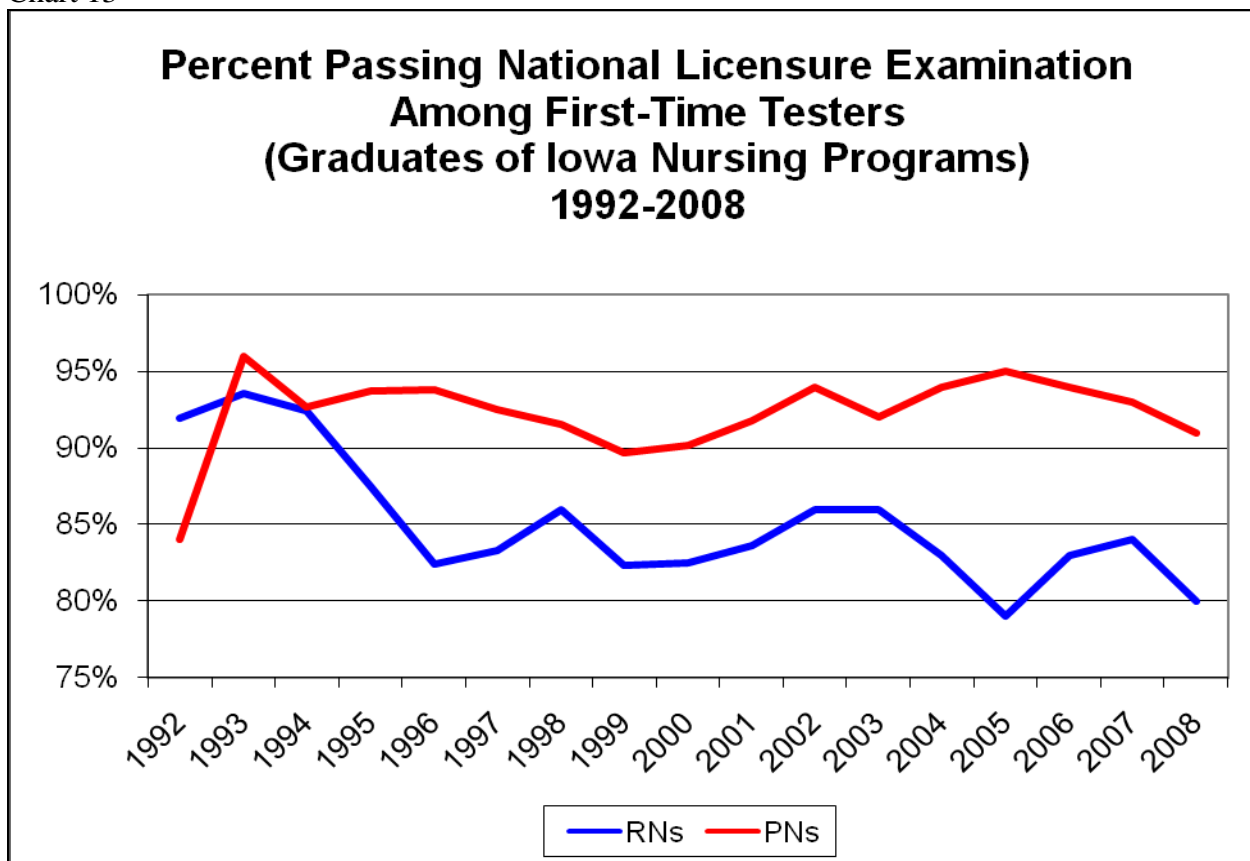
*Note: Most nursing education programs at Iowa community colleges are built on a career ladder concept that prepares graduates to apply for LPN licensure upon completion of the first level (year) and RN licensure upon completion of the second level (year). At least two-thirds of PN graduates from Iowa programs proceed directly to an RN program without becoming licensed as an LPN.*

Chart 12



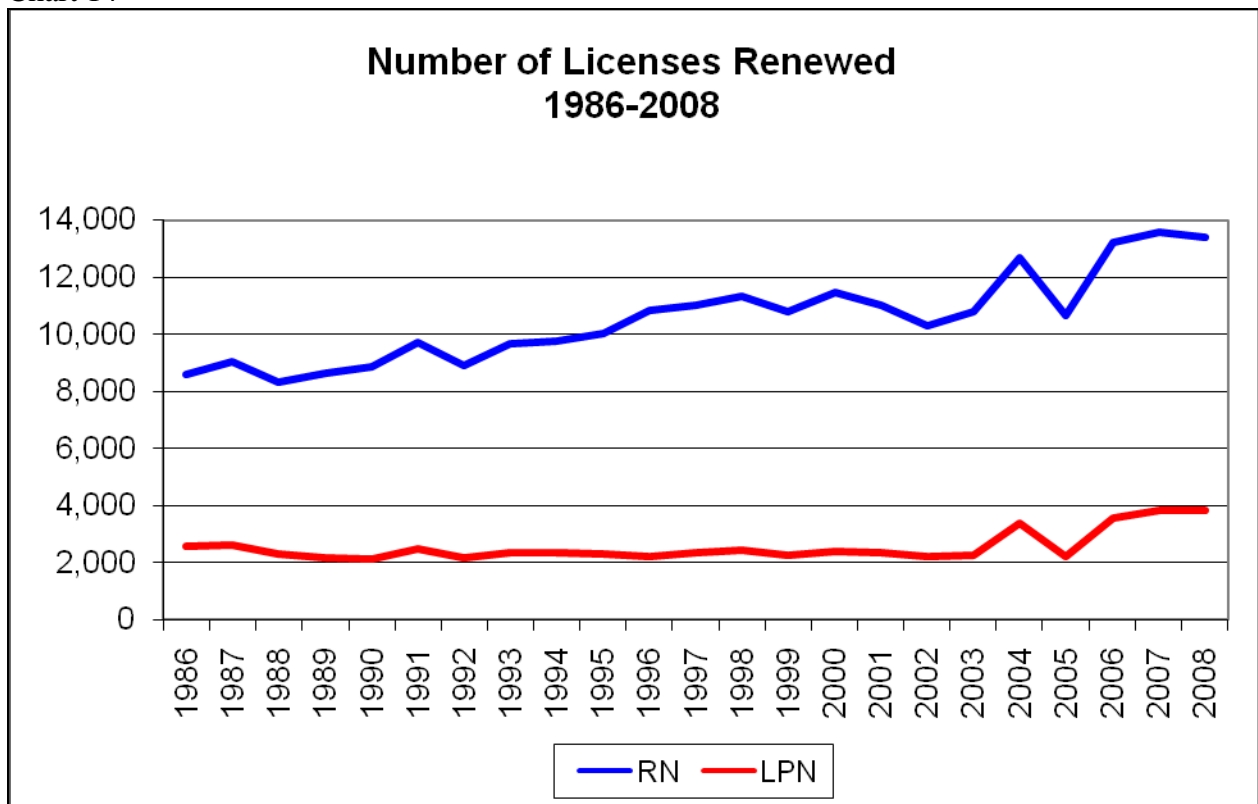
The number of RN residents in Iowa showed a slight, steady increase between 1986 and 2008. In the same time period, the number of LPN residents in Iowa fluctuated. Recent trends indicate an increased number of Iowa LPN residents.

Chart 13



*Note: The State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE) was provided from 1946-1982. The National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) has been provided from 1982 to present. After 1988, NCLEX results were reported as Pass/Fail. The examination was converted to computerized adaptive testing (CAT) in April 1994.*

Chart 14



*Note: RN and LPN license renewals are conducted on a three-year cycle.*

## SECTION 2: NURSING EDUCATION

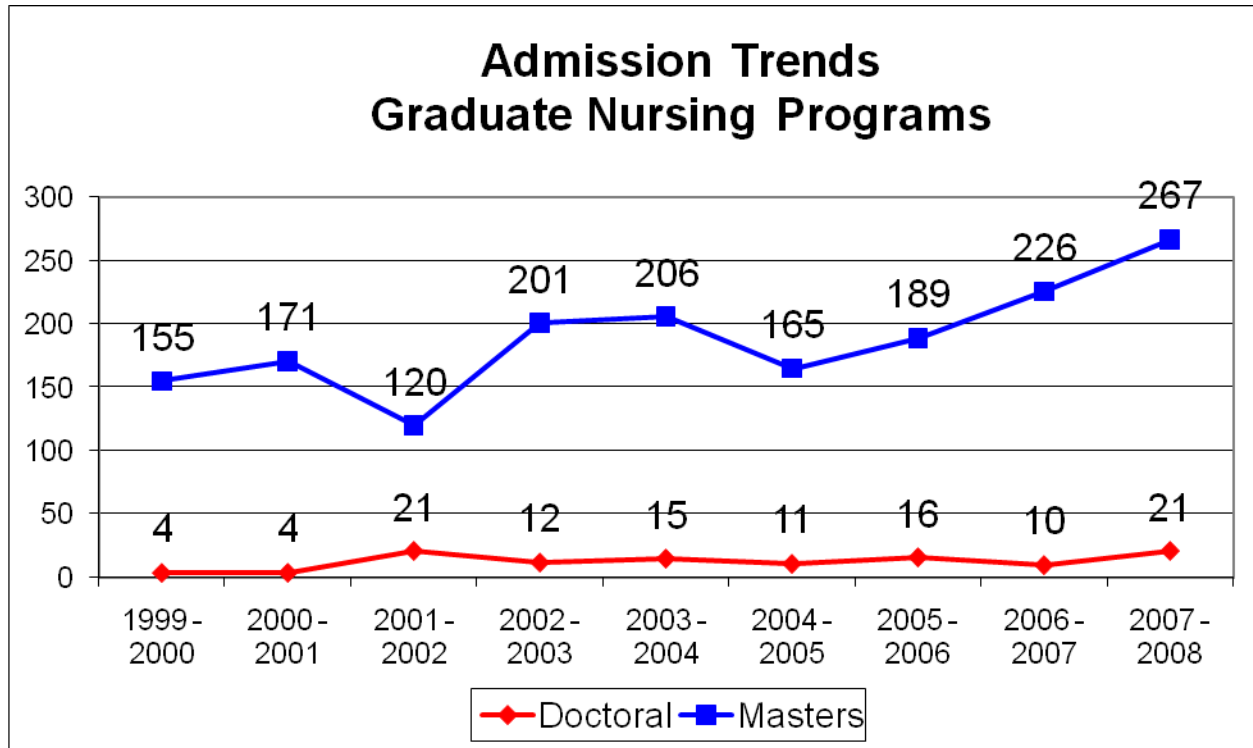
### Nursing Education Programs

Chart 15 Number of Nursing Education Programs by Type (1992-2008)

Program	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2007	2008
Doctoral	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Post Masters	0	0	0	2	3	5	5	4	4	4	5
Masters	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	6	6	7
Professional Masters								1	1	1	1
Baccalaureate	14	14	14	15	14	14	13	14	18	18	18
Associate Degree	22	24	25	26	27	26	26	26	26	26	26
Practical Nursing	28	29	29	30	29	29	28	29	33	33	33
Diploma	5	5	5	5	4	0	0	0	0		0

### Admission Data

Chart 16

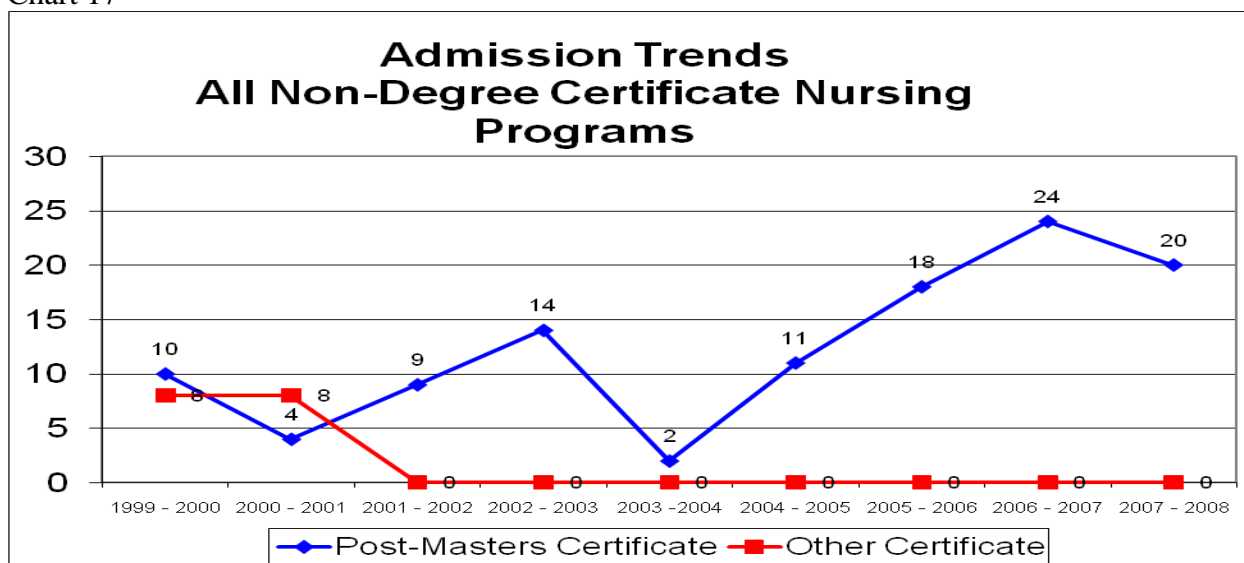


Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **21 students were admitted to Iowa's Doctoral program**, an increase of 110% compared to last year and an increase of 40% compared to five years ago.

Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **267 students were admitted to Iowa's academic Masters programs**, an increase of 18% compared to last year and an increase of 30% compared to five years ago.

In 2008, graduate programs in nursing reported **40** students on waiting lists.

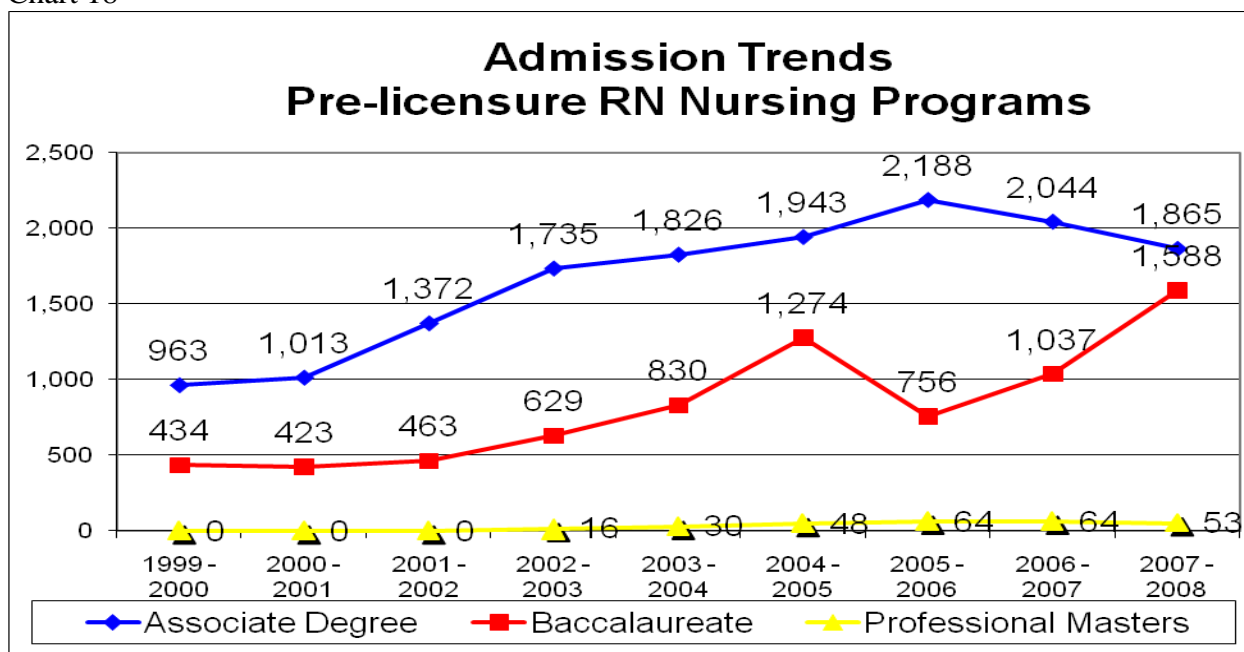
Chart 17



Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **20 students** were admitted to Iowa's **Post-Masters Certificate programs**, a decrease of **16%** compared to last year and an increase of **900%** compared to five years ago.

In 2008, no Post-Masters Certificate programs in nursing reported students on waiting lists.

Chart 18

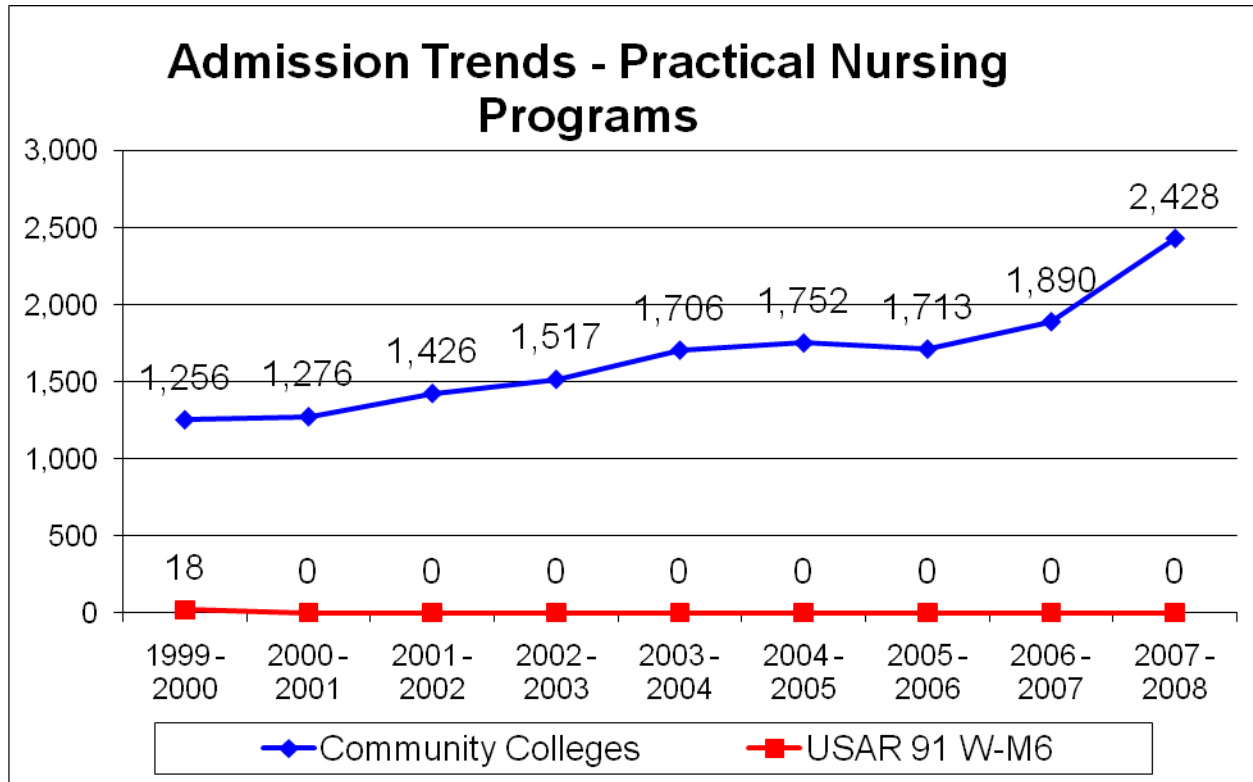


Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **3,506 students** were admitted to Iowa's **pre-licensure RN programs**, an increase of **12%** compared to last year and an increase of **31%** compared to five years ago.

In 2008, the undergraduate RN programs, including professional Masters, Baccalaureate and Associate Degree, reported **370 students on waiting lists**.

*Note: In 2008, the undergraduate RN programs, including Professional Masters, Baccalaureate and Associate degree, reported 76 faculty vacancies (26 full-time and 50 part-time) in the areas of medical, surgical, pediatric, obstetric, mental health, geriatric, community health, critical care nursing and advanced practice.*

Chart 19



Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **2,428 students were admitted to Iowa's LPN programs**, an increase of 33% compared to last year and an increase of 42% compared to five years ago.

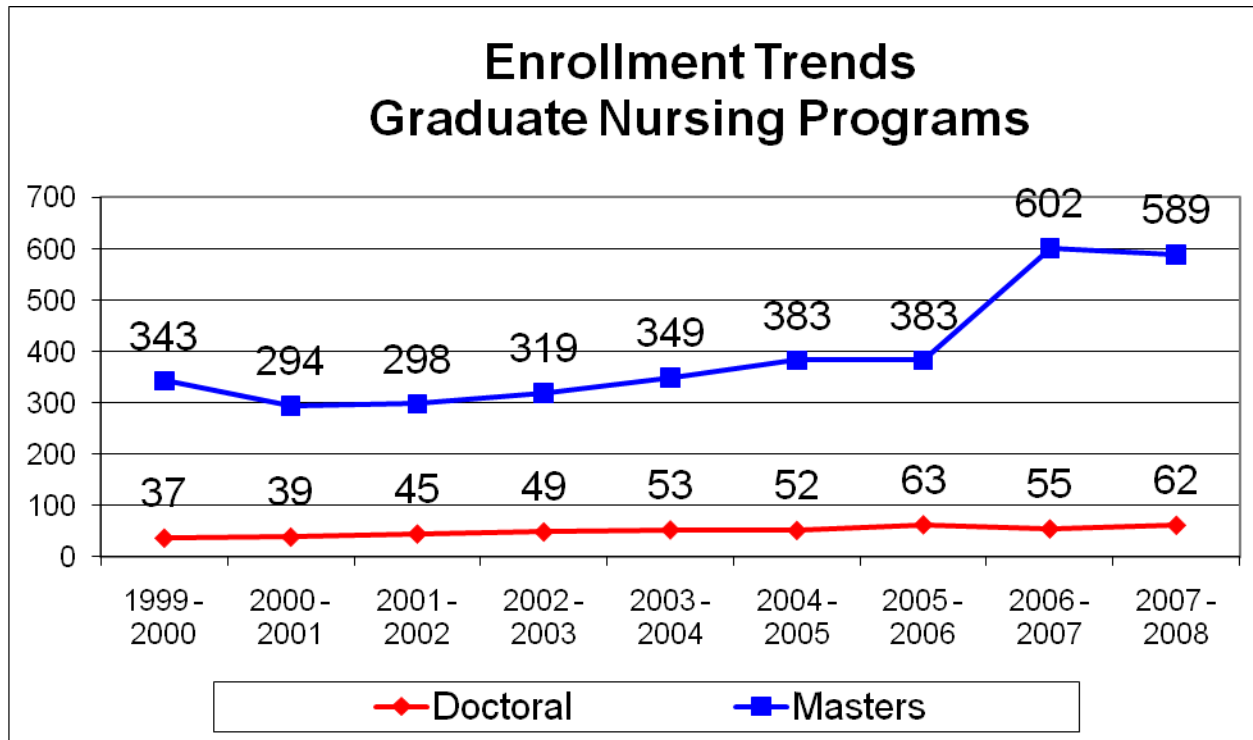
In 2008, the LPN programs reported **575 students on waiting lists**.

*Note: In 2008, approximately 80% of practical nursing graduates proceeded directly to RN programs.*

*In 2008, the LPN Programs reported 36 faculty vacancies (13 full-time and 23 part-time)*

## Enrollment Data

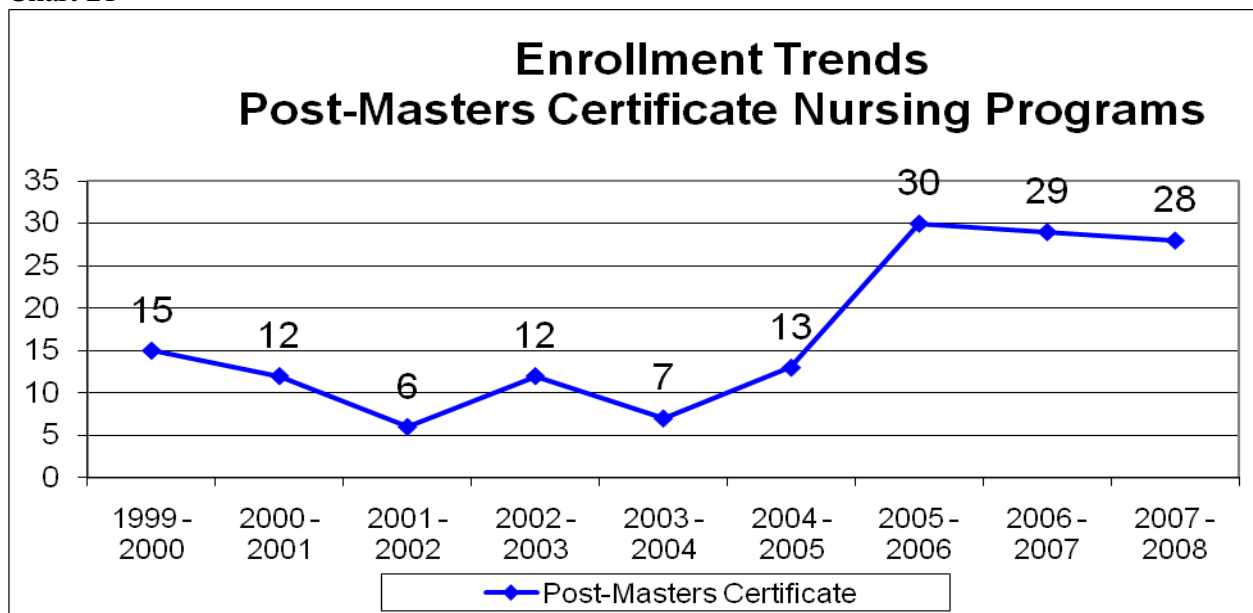
Chart 20



Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **62 students were enrolled in Iowa's Doctoral program**, an increase of 13% compared to last year and an increase of 17% compared to five years ago.

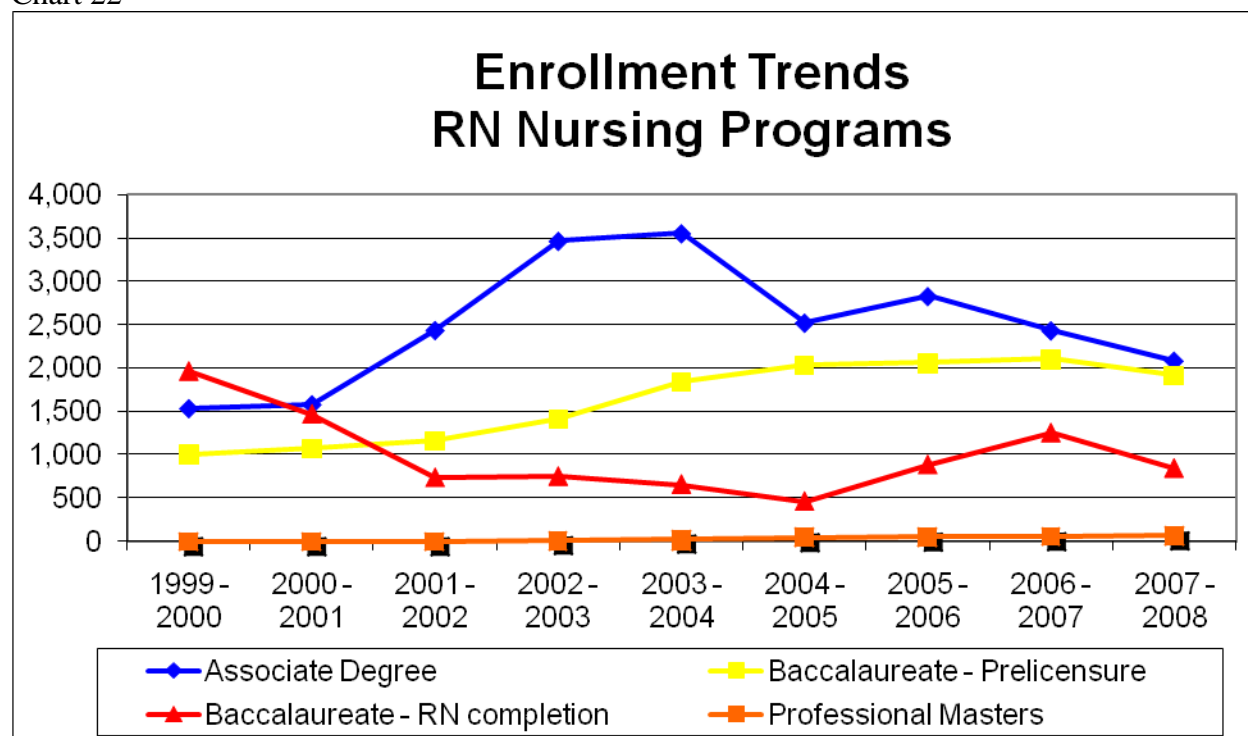
Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **589 students were enrolled in Iowa's academic Masters programs**, a decrease of 13% compared to last year and an increase of 69% compared to five years ago.

Chart 21



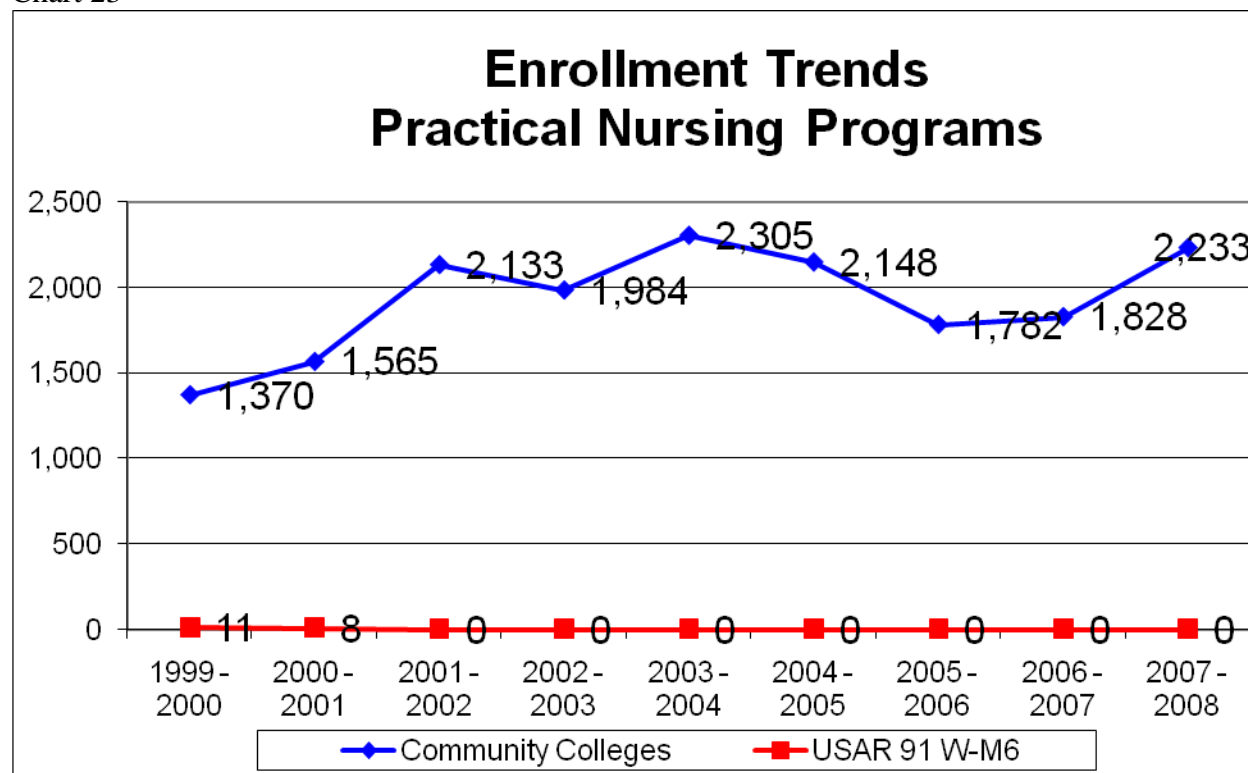
Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **28 students were enrolled in Iowa's Post-Masters Certificate programs**, a decrease of 3% compared to last year and an increase of 300% compared to five years ago.

Chart 22



Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **4,893 students were enrolled in Iowa's RN programs**, a decrease of **16%** compared to last year and a decrease of **19%** compared to five years ago.

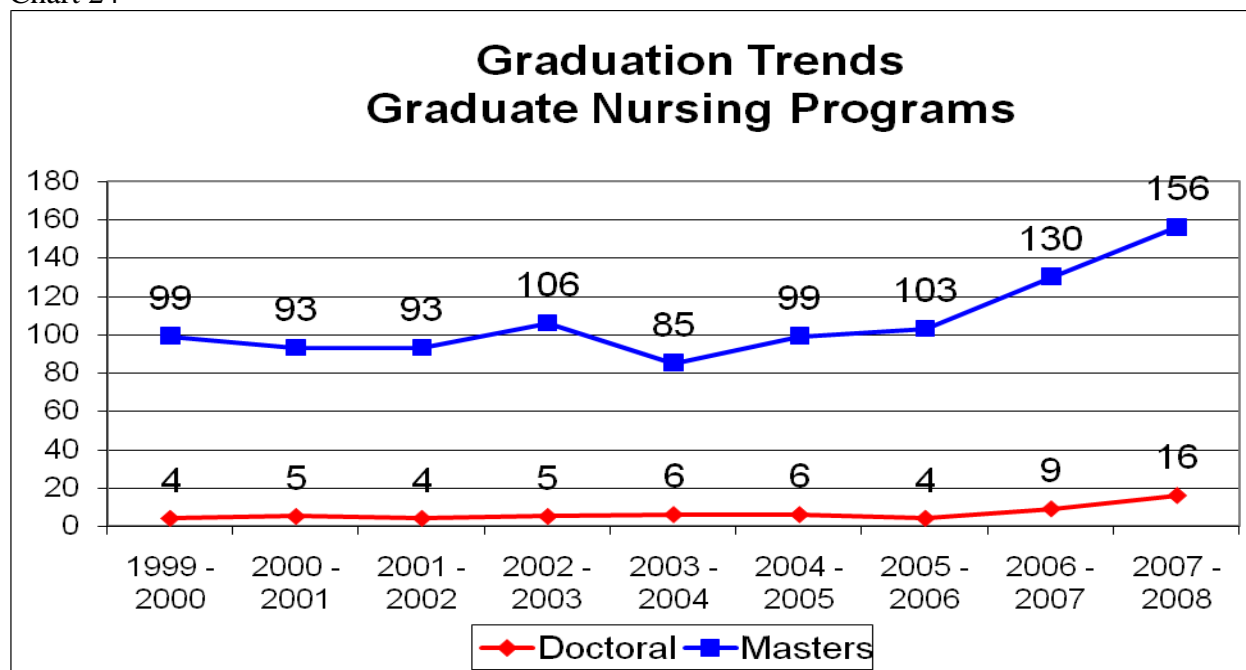
Chart 23



In 2008, **2,233 students were enrolled in Iowa's LPN programs**, an increase of 22% compared to last year and a decrease of **3%** compared to five years ago.

## Graduation Data

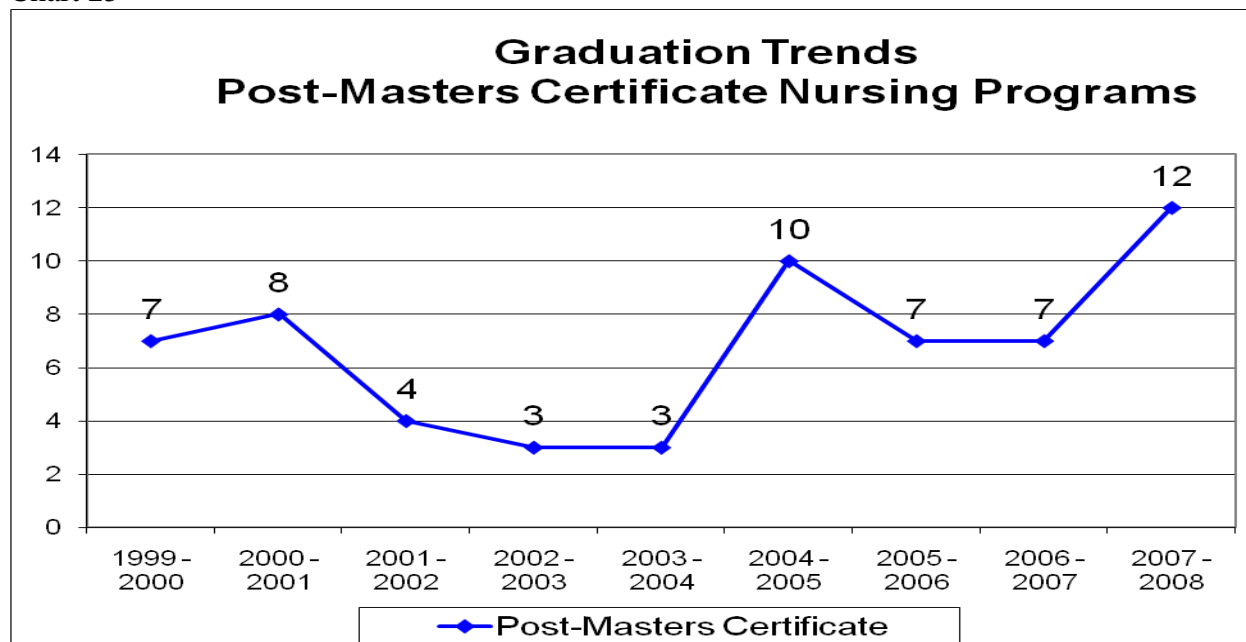
Chart 24



Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **16 students graduated from Iowa's Doctoral program**, an increase of 78% compared to last year and an increase of 167% compared to five years ago. A total of 41 students have graduated from the doctoral program in the past five years.

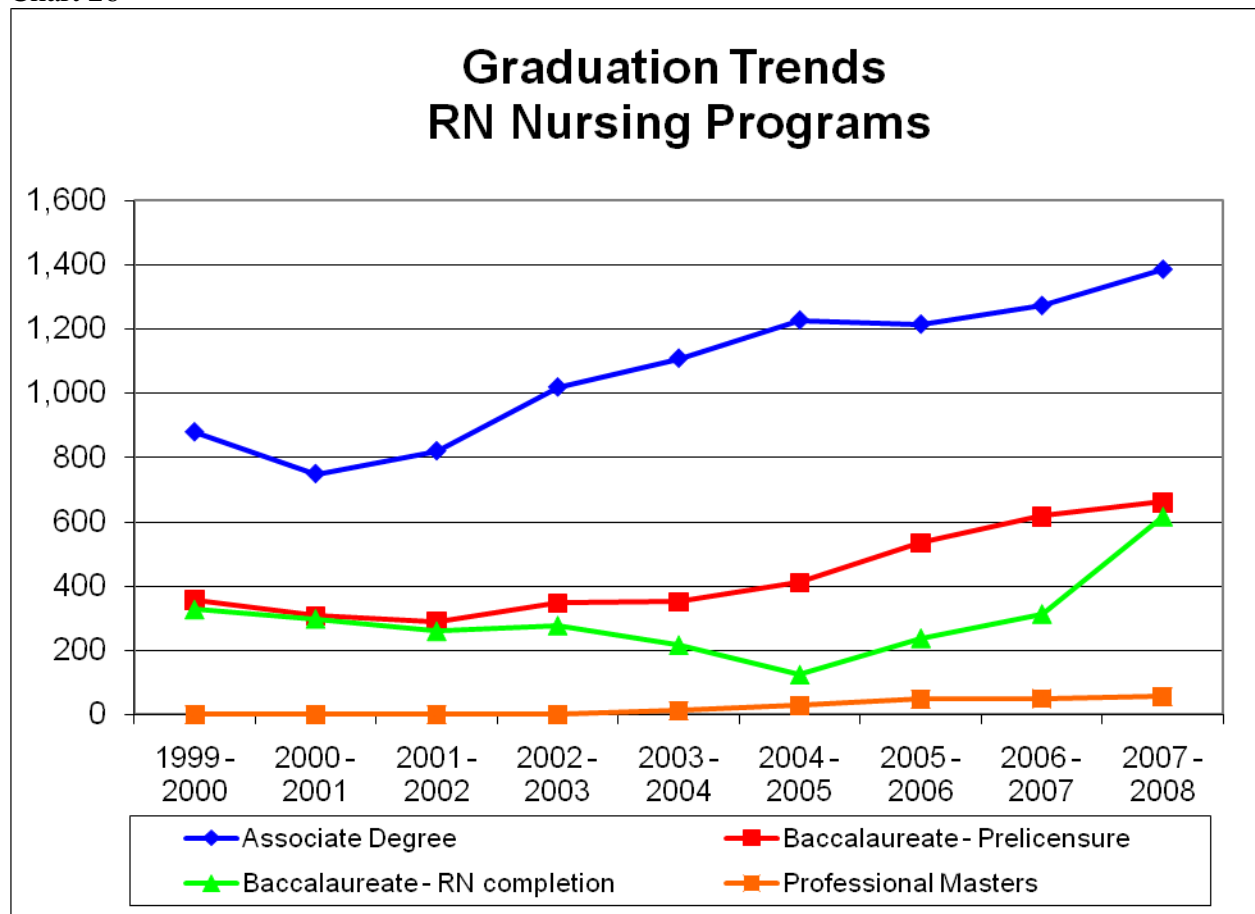
Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **156 students graduated from Iowa's academic Masters programs**, an increase of 20% compared to last year and an increase of 84% compared to five years ago.

Chart 25



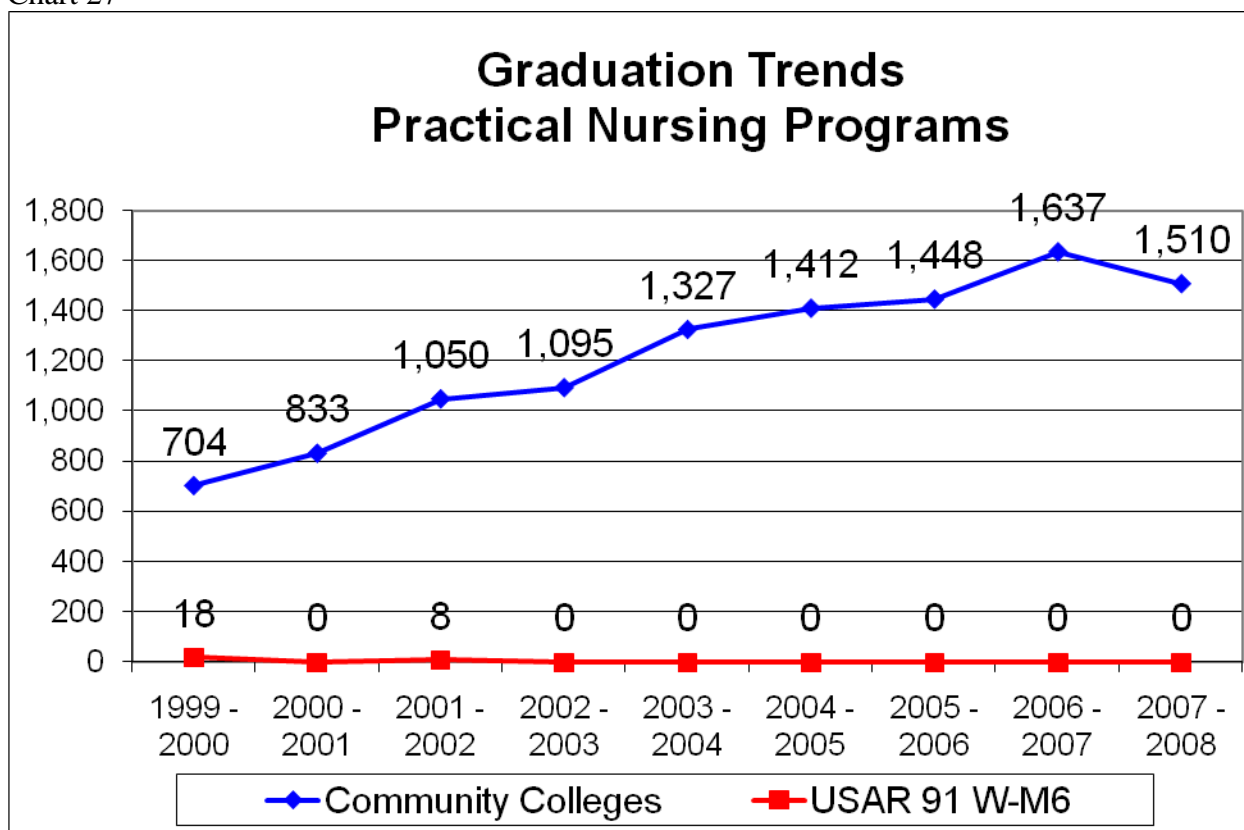
Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **12 students graduated from Iowa's Post-Masters Certificate programs**, an increase of 71% compared to last year and an increase of 300% compared to five years ago.

Chart 26



Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **2,720 students graduated from Iowa's RN programs**, an increase of 21% compared to last year and an increase of 61% compared to five years ago.

Chart 27



Between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008: **1,510 students graduated from Iowa's LPN programs**, a decrease of **8%** compared to last year and an increase of 14% compared to five years ago.

All of the data in this report is collected from the Iowa Board of Nursing Annual Report June 2008 and the Annual Program Reports as submitted by the Heads of Nursing Education Programs. The Iowa Board of Nursing Annual Report is posted on the board's web site at [www.iowa.gov/nursing](http://www.iowa.gov/nursing). Nursing education programs are counted separately by site and type. In some instances, more than one site may share administration, a common philosophy, curriculum and faculty.

For more information contact the Iowa Board of Nursing at (515) 281-5535 or email: [lynn.linder@iowa.gov](mailto:lynn.linder@iowa.gov).



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